United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400 **Date:** October 4, 1999

To: John Schultz, Bradford District Ranger

Subject: Hazard Trees.

I was at the Bradford Ranger district last week and while observing red pine pocket decline in a stand on Rt. 321 near the Red Bridge camp ground, I stopped to look at the graves of S. B. Stanton and S. D. Morrison. These graves of two Civil War veterans are marked by a large white pine. This tree has a 9.5 foot girth (just below BH) of which 3.5 ft is exposed and has badly decayed wood. While I do not think the tree is an immediate hazard to forest visitors, I maintain it would be prudent to think about replacing it within the next year. At some time in the past, the tree has had a major limb removed from it and it might well have been struck by lightning because one of its leaders/major limbs has an elongate and obviously decayed scar on it.

While I could not see any cones on the tree, I did notice several small pine trees growing along the edge of the adjacent red pine stand. It would be my suggestion that the RD evaluate the tree for its hazard potential and consider replacing the tree. I'm sure there is some veterans organization or organization of Civil War re-enactors who would be willing to assist the district with a suitable ceremony of rededication. These are just my suggestions.

On a related subject; on a recent drive by of the Bradford RD I noticed a dead tree that I suspect is within striking range of the handicapped parking space outside the RD. This tree should be checked out immediately and if within range, brought down immediately.

Should you think that your staff would benefit from a refresher on hazard trees in recreational settings, I would be delighted to bring my show to the RD. While I am aware you have a well trained professional staff, it is my belief that we should empower all of our staff to look for and report hazard trees in recreational settings.

While checking on the health of a 1930 red pine stand adjacent to the Wheeler fire tower at Hearts Content, I located a small pocket of bark beetle mortality. Judging by the *Cryptoporus volvatus* conks on some dead trees, this bark beetle activity began two or more years ago, and as there were dead trees with needles still attached, the pocket is still active. Come spring, I'll invite Dr. Bob Acciavatti to assist me in evaluating the significance of this pocket. Does the District have any plans to thin this stand? To my eye, the stand looked over stocked and thus would be a candidate for a mini bark beetle attack.

Sincerely,

MARTIN MacKENZIE
Forest Pathologist
Forest Health Protection